

## THE POWER OF NECESSITY

Exploring reason of state in a global monarchy, *The Power of Necessity* examines how thinkers and agents in the Spanish monarchy navigated the tension between political pragmatism and moral-religious principle. This tension lies at the very heart of Counter-Reformation reason of state. Nowhere was the need for pragmatic state management greater than in the overstretched Spanish empire of the seventeenth century. However, pragmatic politics were problematic for a Catholic monarchy steeped in ideals of justice and divine justifications of power and kingship. Presenting a broad cast of characters from across Europe, and uniting published sources with a wide range of archival material, Lisa Kattenberg shows how non-canonical thinkers and agents confronted the political-moral dilemmas of their age by creatively employing the legitimizing power of necessity. Pioneering new ways of bridging the persistent gap between theory and practice in the history of political thought, *The Power of Necessity* casts fresh light on the struggle to preserve the monarchy in a modernizing world.

LISA KATTENBERG is Assistant Professor in Early Modern Intellectual History at the University of Amsterdam. Between 2019 and 2022, she was Research Fellow in History at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge. Her doctoral dissertation, from which she developed this book, was awarded the Keetje Hodshon Award for the best doctoral thesis in history completed at a Dutch university during the past five years by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has published broadly in Spanish, English and Dutch.

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# THE POWER OF NECESSITY

*Reason of State in the Spanish Monarchy, c. 1590–1650*

LISA KATTENBERG

*University of Amsterdam*



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*Voor Marjon*

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